

University Of Washington
Faculty Council on Academic Standards
October 7, 2011
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Gerberding Hall 26

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Call to Order
 - 2) Approval of Minutes
 - 3) Introductions / Subcommittee Assignments / Summary of Last Year's Annual Report
 - 4) Preview of Issues for this Year
 - 5) Adjourn
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Schaufelberger at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of May 27, 2011

The minutes of the May 27, 2011 meeting were approved electronically prior to the meeting.

3. Introductions / Subcommittee Assignments / Summary of Last Year's Annual Report

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Jim Gregory was in attendance. He plans to attend a meeting with all the faculty councils in order to get a sense of council activities for the Faculty Senate. Faculty council members then provided brief self-introductions.

Chair Schaufelberger summarized the charge of the council. Academic Standards is responsible matters of University policy relating to the academic affairs of the University, such as admissions policy, scholastic standards, university graduation requirements, and inter-institutional academic standards. Schaufelberger went on to explain that this first meeting will identify and form an agenda for the year and also be sign-ups for FCAS subcommittees: Academic Programs (SCAP) chaired by Brad Holt; Admissions and Graduation chaired by Susanna Cunningham; Honors chaired by Gunnar Almgren. FCAS policies, annual reports, minutes and other pertinent information is kept on the Website at <http://www.washington.edu/faculty/committees/fcas/>. Last year's topics were on: degree program in Abu Dhabi; guidelines were passed on unwarranted presentations in classrooms; discussion on "satisfactory progress." Evan Smith brought up IB / AP Credits, and Schaufelberger discussed that the guidelines are on the website at http://www.washington.edu/faculty/committees/fcas/fcas_issues/fcas_guidelinesonAPandIBcredits_052711.pdf.

4. Issues for this Year

After discussion, the council members identified the following issues for the coming year:

- Fee-based programs vs. state-supported programs - What are the restrictions on a student enrolled in a fee-based program regarding enrollment in state-funded courses? There is a need to develop language to differentiate between state-funded students and fee-based students in the Scholastic Regulations of the University. This will ultimately result in the need to submit Class B legislation to the Faculty Senate.
- Direct Freshman Admission into Competitive Majors – A special group, Direct-Admit Team, was formed by the provost to consider logistics for direct freshman admission into a major; their final report is at <http://www.washington.edu/discover/leadership/provost/print/direct-admit-team-report> . Recommendations from the group could lead to additional requests for freshmen direct admit to competitive majors.
- Working Group on English Language Proficiency – The group was formed to address concerns regarding the fairness and effectiveness of the University’s English language proficiency policies. The group is currently evaluating the impact of increased international undergraduate admissions.
- Prior Learning Assessment – Evaluate whether or not this is a valid community college transfer credit. Wiegand clarified that this is not really about the credit for life experience, rather evaluating the learning and giving credit for learning, evaluated by exam, portfolio or overlap within courses or skills. Ballinger stated that is being measured by military or CLEP tests, and there is pressure to consider this. However, Schaufelberger brought up question of whether credits would be related to specific courses, but it seems that it will not necessarily. This led into expanded discussion on challenges for course credit, where most agreed that this was dependent on the department. Wiegand is a “point-person” regarding these credits, report due in December to legislature, and the council should be able to discuss this in January.
- Western Governors University (WGU) transfer credit – Ballinger stated that transfer is contingent on policy granting achievement based on a test or grade. Smith stated that HEC board is currently working on transfer policy for WGU credits, and Ballinger stated this may be a future agenda item.
- Athlete’s Admission Policies – Address concerns about the athletic department’s ability to reverse admission decisions made by the University’s admissions office. Need to get process in writing in order to clarify, and this will be sent to the Subcommittee on Admissions and Graduation, in order for FCAS to look at this during the fall.
- Diversity Requirement Proposal – Evan Smith brought up that students will be proposing the addition of a diversity graduation requirement, similar to requirement at UC Berkeley. Was recommended to examine prior actions relative to establishing a diversity requirement, since it was rejected by the voting faculty. Holt suggested consideration beginning such a requirement at a college, and to take into account the impact on Activity Based Budgeting. Schaufelberger suggested that any such measure would need ASUW support, not just by a select group of students, and to speak with the registrar regarding auditing a diversity requirement in DARS.
- Course Grade Requirements – Growing number of programs are requesting course grade requirements increased from 2.5 to 3. A number of these requests have been denied by SCAP since the policy was crafted 2-years ago.
- Course Credit Inflation – FCAS may need to evaluate assess the accuracy of credit count for courses. This issue is related to the new Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) model. This model has the potential to give an incentive to inflate the number of credits in courses. Perhaps courses to be assessed could come from analyzing student evaluations, and seeing if credits are not in line with class-hours.
- HECB Dissemination Plans – The group asked to be kept apprised of the process of eliminating the HECB and what units will receive the functions within the HECB.

- *Kuali Student* program – New MyPlan system part of program, Online System for Degree Planning & Registration, funded by the Student Technology Fee Committee; it’s purpose is to assist student in academic planning. It was proposed to have Wiegand present something to the group during spring quarter.

A brief discussion of student demographics ensued from Ballinger. The freshman class enrollment is close to 5800, greater than the 5650 that was anticipated. International student enrollment also increased by 6%. Of international students (making up 18% of the freshmen class), 90% had proficiency high enough to not need to take Academic English Language Program (AEP) courses, which are mandated should a student not score high enough on proficiency tests, and scored very high on SAT math scores, 714/800, while still performing under resident reading scores and on par with writing scores. Increase in student diversity. Students had an average of 3.74 GPA, 1213 SAT. 30% are the first in their families to attend college and 28% coming from low-income families.

5. Adjournment

Chair Schaufelberger adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. jayf@u.washington.edu

Present: Faculty: Kramer, Schaufelberger (Chair), Holt, Taggart, Keil
President’s Designee: Ballinger
Ex-Officio Reps: Fugate, Wensel, Williams, Smith
Regularly Invited Guests: Edwards, Corbett, Wiegand
Guest: Gregory (Faculty Senate Vice Chair), Coots (ASUW)

Absent: Faculty: Almgren, Cunningham, Pengra, Holman, Stroup, Janssen
Ex-Officio Reps:
Regularly Invited Guests: Sahr, Winslow